

Greenways & Natural Lands

Seminole Tracks Newsletter



New Year, New Experiences...

Make 2022 the year for exploration, intrigue and adventure for you and your family with Natural Lands! Florida's Winter and Spring offer many cool days to roam our beautiful natural areas. This season also presents some of our favorite holidays like Arbor Day, Florida Gopher Tortoise Day and Earth Day!

Seminole County Natural Lands offers many opportunities to enjoy the season; search for migrating birds, celebrate Earth Day or spend time camping with your family! Whatever you're in to, Natural Lands has an outdoor event for you! We can't wait to see you out there!

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Location: Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva, FL 32732

Times: Saturday, 2:00pm to
Sunday, 9:00am

Cost: \$15 per person/per campout

Register online at

recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov



Family Fun Campouts

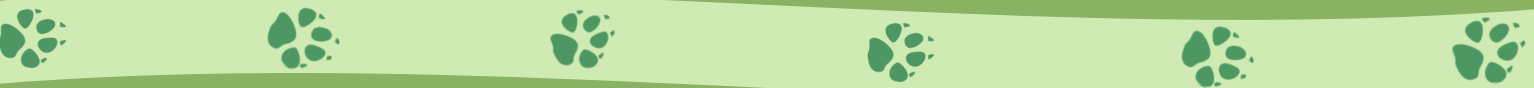


This is one of our most popular Natural Lands events! Spend the night at the Geneva Wilderness Area and learn to camp with the experts.

This event is tailored for families with children ages 5-13 who want a crash course in camping. Meals included! We will have tent pitching assistance, cast iron cooking, a live animal program in the nature center, fishing, hiking, and cooking s'mores over a campfire. Tents can be rented for an additional fee.

This season, there are 4 dates to choose from. In February and March, enjoy crisp and cool nights by the fire. In May, celebrate Mom for a special Mother's Day camp out.

Dates: February 5-6
March 5-6
April 2-3
May 7-8 (Mother's Day!)



Spring Break Eco Camp!

Spring into nature at Spring Break Eco Camp!

Your kids will have a blast while learning about the natural world! Campers will explore the Geneva Wilderness Area through fishing, hiking, setting live traps, and learning about native wildlife and plants. Inside the nature center, they will create works of art, play games and meet our live animal residents.

Find out more by visiting our Eco Camp webpage!



Dates: March 14-18
Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426,
Geneva
Times: 9:00am - 4:00pm
(Extended Day Care available from
7:30am - 5:30pm)
Cost: \$132/week (Extended Day
Care an additional \$15/week)
Ages: 7-12



Classes and Programs

Come learn something new by experiencing it first-hand! Natural Lands' classes and programs offer learning opportunities for everyone. This Spring, we have a variety of events to choose from. Just make sure you register before you arrive. Classes fill up quickly, so sign up today by visiting: recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov



Wildlife Photography– Essence of Wildlife Photography

Come join Adventure Photographer TJ Waller as he shares some of his secrets of Wildlife Photography! Learn how TJ gets the shots that have been published both locally and nationally!

TJ will cover Camera settings, techniques for stationary and moving subjects, approach techniques and more!

Skill level: Beginner to Intermediate

Date/Time: Saturday, **January 8**, 8-10 am

Location: Geneva Wilderness Area/ Ed Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. CR. 426

Geneva, FL 32732

Cost: \$5 per person

Ages: 18+



Star Gazing

Join Natural Lands, the staff of the Emil Buehler Planetarium at Seminole State College and members of the Central Florida Astronomical Society for an evening exploring the wonders of the night sky. Program includes guided constellation laser tours of the sky and peering through large telescopes of many of the sky's best celestial objects.

Date/Time: Saturday, **February 5**, 6:30pm - 10 pm

Location: Lake Harney Wilderness Area
2395 Osceola Fish Camp road
Geneva, FL 32732

Cost: \$5 per person

Ages: 9+ (children must be accompanied by an adult)



Spring Open Houses @ EYNC

Stop in to visit the Ed Yarborough Nature Center! Meet and greet with our animal residents and explore our exhibits and displays. Join a knowledgeable guide on a short hike around the wilderness area where you might spy some wild creatures! Hikes begin at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 am. All ages are welcome.

No registration required!

Dates: Saturday, **March 26** (Native Plant Day)
Saturday, **April 9** (FL Gopher Tortoise Day)
Saturday, **May 21** (Nature Arts and Crafts)

Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva 32732

Time: 9:00am-Noon



Snakes of Florida Program

Join a local expert from Seminole County Natural Lands as he gives an introduction to and dispels some of the myths about these often-misunderstood cold blooded residents.

Date/Time: Saturday, **May 14**, 9am– noon

Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva, FL 32732

Cost: \$3 per person

Ages: 7+ (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Guided Hikes

Did you know that Natural Lands includes 9 properties with over 6,600 total acres for you to explore? Let our knowledgeable guides walk you through some of Seminole County's most beautiful wilderness areas. Guides will give you the scoop on interesting finds and notable sights along the way. Hikes fill up quickly, so sign up today by visiting: recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov

All hikes are \$3 per guest. Children must be 7 years or older (unless otherwise noted) and accompanied by an adult to attend. All Natural Lands hikes require pre-registration. Call 407.665.2211 for more information.

JAN
22

Florida Tree Trek

Saturday 9:00-11:00 am @ Spring Hammock Preserve

Celebrate Florida Arbor Day this year by joining a NL guide for a hike through oaks, pines, cypress and other mixed hardwood trees in this beautiful preserve. Learn to identify native trees and find out how these giants impact our ecosystems and our lives.

Hike Rating
EASY

MAR
23

Nocturnal Animal Hike

Wednesday 7:00-9:00 p.m. @ Econ River Wilderness Area

Take a break in the middle of the week to celebrate the passing of the Spring Equinox and search for hidden night creatures!

Hike Rating
EASY

APR
2

Swamp Walk

Saturday 8:00-10:00 a.m. at Spring Hammock Preserve

Follow your guide through the unmarked trails of a real hydric hammock! Wade waist-deep in the murky waters of a swamp. You must wear long pants and closed-toed lace up shoes (no duct tape or mud boots, please). Bring bug repellent, water, and something to sit on when you drive home. You will get very muddy and wet and there is nowhere to change after the hike. Ages 10+.

Hike Rating
STRENUOUS

APR
23

Ethnobotany Hike

Saturday 8:00-10:00 a.m. @ Geneva Wilderness Area

Ethnobotany is the study of the historic uses of plants. Before supermarkets, humans relied on plants for food, clothing, cordage, medicine and more. Your guide will explain how our local plant life has been used by indigenous cultures, early settlers, and is still used by people today.

Hike Rating
EASY

APR
30

Frog Hop Night Hike

Saturday 7:00-9:00 p.m. @ Geneva Wilderness Area

Learn to identify frogs by sight and sound during this frog-tastic night hike! Explore the fascinating science behind amplexus and why these croaking creatures are essential to a balanced ecosystem.

Hike Rating
MODERATE

APR
30

Spring Migration– Morning Birding Hike

Saturday 7:30-9:30 a.m. @ Lake Harney Wilderness Area

Join local Master Naturalist Chuck Honaker from Seminole Audubon Society as he points out migratory birds on the wing. Bring your binoculars to spot transient birds on their way North. Learn the amazing biology of bird migration!

Hike Rating
EASY

Property
Addresses

Spring Hammock Preserve
2985 Osprey Trail, Longwood 32750
Econ River Wilderness Area
3795 Old Lockwood Rd., Geneva 32765
Black Bear Wilderness Area
298 Michigan Ave., Sanford 32771

Chuluota Wilderness Area
3895 Curryville Rd. Chuluota 32766
Lake Harney Wilderness Area
2395 Osceola Fish Camp Rd, Geneva 32732
Geneva Wilderness Area/Ed Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426, Geneva 32732

Private Hikes, Rentals and Programs

Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva, FL 32732

Cost: \$170, which includes 3-hour facility rental and the Natural Lands host.

Registration: To coordinate times and availability, please email:
nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov



Nature Adventure Birthday Parties!



Create a birthday party experience your child will never forget! A trained staff member will welcome your party guests, present an exciting live animal program and take the group for a hike on our 180-acre property. You will have time in the center for exploration and to enjoy your refreshments.

Private Hikes

Do you want to take a hike with your favorite people? Schedule a private hike with Natural Lands! Great for scout groups, field trips, team building and family reunions.

One of our knowledgeable staff members will guide you through the trails of the wilderness area of your choice. Along the way, hikers can ask questions and the instructor will stop to point out notable sights. Hike takes approximately 2 hours. \$3 per person. 15-25 guests.

Facility Rentals

Rent one of our amazing facilities for your party, family reunion, business meeting or other events!

- North Campsite/Pavilion @ GWA
- Ed Yarborough Nature Center
- Full & half days or overnight



Field Trips & In-School Programs

Field trips to the Ed Yarborough Nature Center can serve as a wonderful opportunity for your students to explore natural science first-hand. Program includes a nature program in the center with live animals, a hike around the property and time for lunch. Open to public, private and home school groups. Only \$5 per student!

Let Natural Lands come to you! During the 45-50 minute in-school program, students will learn about standards-based science topics and have opportunities to view and handle skulls, displays and live animals. This program is FREE!

For more information, please call 407.665.2211 or email nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov

At a Glance

January 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Wildlife Photography Class @ Geneva
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
						Florida Tree Trek @ Spring Hammock
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

February 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
						Stargazing @ Lake Harney Family Fun Campout @ Geneva
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3	4	5

At a Glance






March 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	1	2	3	4	5 Family Fun Campout @ Geneva 
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Spring Break Eco Camp!						
20	21	22	23 Nocturnal Animals Hike @ Econ River 	24	25	26 Open House @ Geneva (Native Plant Day) 
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

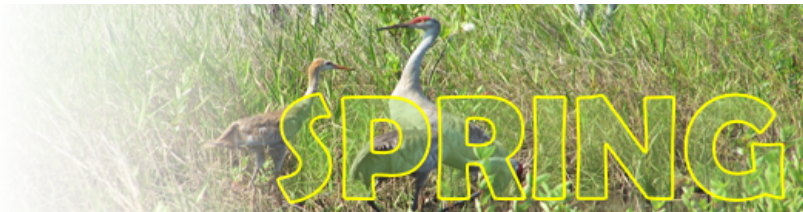
April 2022






Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Swamp Walk @ Spring Hammock  Family Fun Campout @ Geneva 
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Open House @ Geneva (Gopher Tortoise Day) 
10 	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 	23 Ethnobotany Hike @ Geneva 
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Frog Hop Night Hike @ Geneva  Morning Birding Hike @ Lake Harney 

At a Glance

May 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Family Fun Campout @ Geneva 
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Snakes of Florida @ Geneva 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Open House @ Geneva (Nature Arts & Crafts) 
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Summer

During the heat of the Summer, Natural Lands hosts Summer Eco Camp for children 7-12 and Biology Boot Camp for kids 13-15.



Keep checking back on the Leisure Services registration page to get your child(ren) signed up!
recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov

We look forward to welcoming everyone else back for hikes and programs in the Fall.

Happy Adventuring!